

# Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Suriname



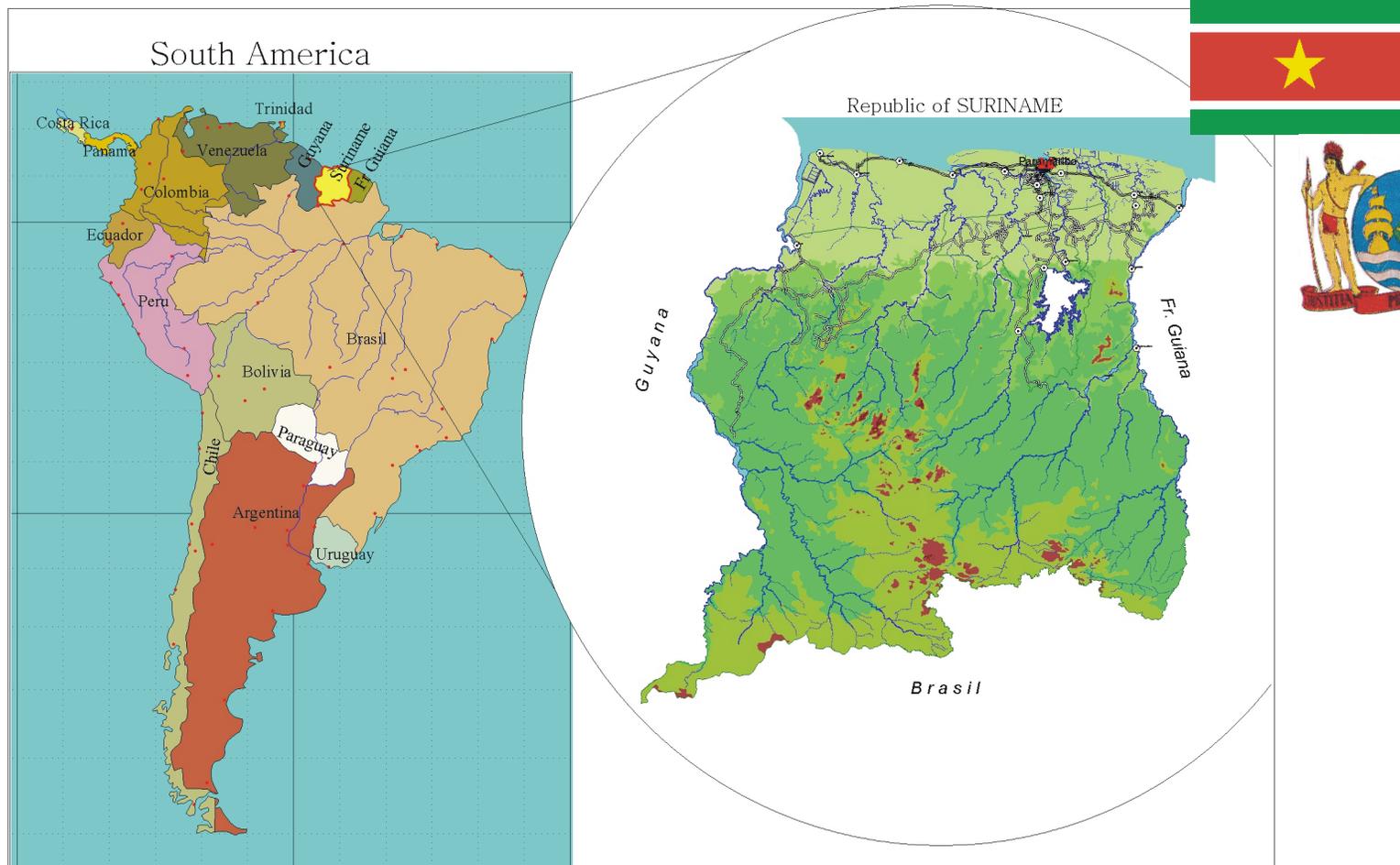
## First Caribbean Initiative Meeting for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

February 3-7, 2009,  
Dominican Republic



Claudine Sakimin  
Nature Conservation Division  
Suriname Forest Service

# Map of Suriname





## Geographical location Suriname:

On the northeastern coast of South America and lies just above the Equator between  $2^{\circ}$  and  $6^{\circ}$  north latitude and  $54^{\circ}$  and  $58^{\circ}$  west longitude.

In the East it is bordered by French Guyana, in the West by Guyana, in the South by Brazil and in the North by the Atlantic Ocean. The total area is about 165,000 square km.

On **March 18, 1985** the Republic of Suriname became a Contracting Party to the Convention on Wetlands



The SURINAME FOREST SERVICE of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management is the **Administrative Authority** of the Ramsar site in Suriname (Coppename Monding Nature Reserve).

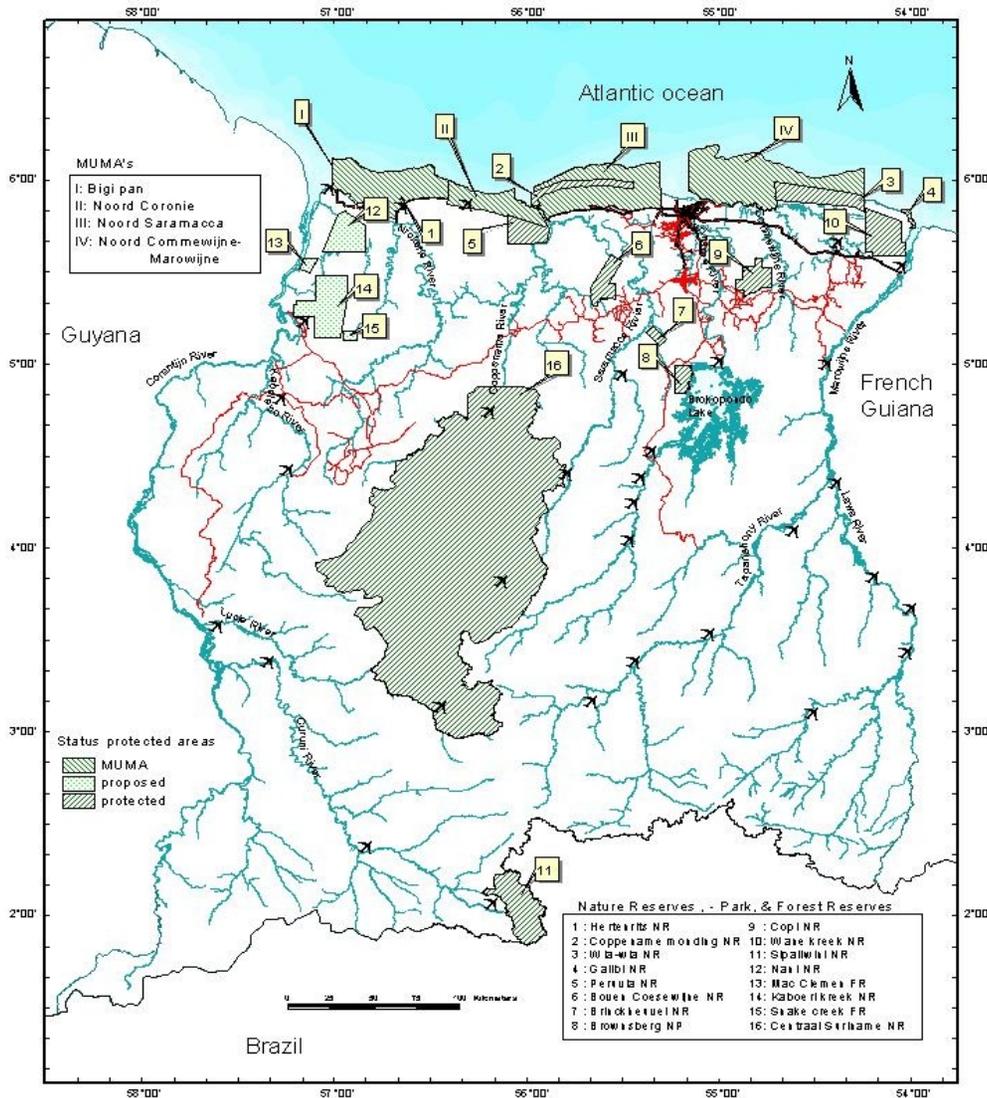
This site is in Suriname a Nature Reserve and is internationally designated a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve.

# Since COP10:



- Suriname actions initiated towards wetlands inventory:  
During November-December 2005: a coastal management plan was a necessity. An Integrated Coastal Zone Area, which includes the wetlands of the coastal nature reserves and wetlands of the coastal Multiple-Use Management Areas (MUMA's).  
In January 2006: Report was produced called "terms of reference Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan Suriname and Pilot Projects".
- 2 December 2008: the Ministry of Planning and Development of Suriname selected a consortium of national and international experts for the preparation of the ICZM Plan and Public Awareness Plan.

## Republic of Suriname Protected Areas



DATA SOURCES  
Topographical maps  
Satellite Images  
Protected Areas

Central Bureau for Aerial Survey  
CELOS, NARENA Dept.  
Forest Service Suriname



March, 2003

## PROTECTED AREAS:

- 11 nature reserves
- 1 nature park
- 4 Multiple-use Management Areas

- The contract was signed and execution started

in February 2009. The contractual project completion date for this ICZM project is 30 March 2010.

- The ICZM Plan proposes the policy, institutional environment and implementation strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

- The Public Awareness Plan proposes short/long-term actions for communicating appropriate messages to various target groups in order to increase the understanding of the necessity and benefits of ICZM in Suriname.



# WWD



- On 2 Feb 2009: WWD:  
Schoolchildren that wrote a nice essay on the importance of coastal waterfowls, went on a trip to the Bigi Pan MUMA (a WHSR site) in the Nickerie district to watch the site with its several coastal birds.
- World Wetlands Day in 2010:  
• In 2010, the WWD activities were held in District Coronie. *The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management* held a speech on the sustainable and wise use of the wetlands in Coronie MUMA. He emphasizes the products and services that it provides to the Coronie community (fish, shrimps, wood, especially **fresh water**).

# Caribbean Regional Initiative



- On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009, Suriname sent the Ramsar Secretariat a national letter to support to evaluate the proposal for the Caribbean regional initiative and to **endorse** it as operating in the framework of the Ramsar Convention for the period 2009-2012.

# Coastal zone of Suriname



- Harbours the most extensive and pristine mangrove forests of the Guiana Eco region.
- The Suriname coast is in South America: wintering ground for migratory shorebirds from North America.
- is of special importance and feeding ground for more than 118 species of coastal birds of which more than 70 species are defined as waterfowl according to the criteria of the Ramsar Convention.
- Management plans.



# Research



- Through a limited EIA in relation to migratory shore birds, conservation status and trends of coastal wetlands is documented in December 2006 with funds from US Fish and Wildlife Service. (Zuilen rapport). As follow up a project is developed on “Coastal Protected Area Management”.
- Gap analysis in the management of Bigi Pan MUMA since its management plan of 1990. An update on the management was in 1995. Awaiting results.

# Problems: Coastal zone PA's



Mangroves are threatened by:

- Development of projects: housing development, rice farming, aquaculture, dike building
- Degradation of mangroves: obvious adverse impact on wetland's birds and fisheries resources
- Some water bird species are hunted illegally
- GoS established PA's along the coast; PA management at present not effective/sustainable:
  1. GoS resources invested in MUMA's is limited (Forest Service).
  2. Roles of different GoS agencies (MUMA's) to be clarified).

# Map of the Ramsar site: Coppename Monding Nature Reserve

## Republic of Suriname Protected Areas



## Problems and threats for the site:



- Lack of coordinated and integrated management
- Chemical and oil pollution
- Over fishing and illegal fishing
- Coastal erosion
- Loss of protected species by poaching

## Priorities for Future Implementation



- Continue environmental education for wetlands.
- - Pilot project on Effective/sustainable Management of the 4 MUMA's in the coastal zone.
- - Environmental impact studies used for decision making on the use of the wetlands (mostly as a result of oil exploration/exploitation by State oil company).
- - Follow up research/studies on water quality and quantity in some wetlands sites.
- - Potential Ramsar sites: Bigi Pan MUMA.
- - Law enforcement: to effectively enforce the Game Law & the Nature Preservation Law in the wetlands.
- - Community outreach, education: to improve public awareness and education on the ecological importance of Suriname's wetlands and fauna and the relevant nature conservation laws.
- Implement Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Management Plan.
- Spatial planning : Policy Ministry RGB: No building zone.

# Assistance from IOP's (International Organization Partners):



- The WWF Guianas is yearly funding:
  - the Nature Conservation Division in its law enforcement to protect the marine turtles of the estuarine beaches;
  - support local CBO "SOLOM" in education, tourism activities in the Bigi Pan Wetland. Further, Research Celos in Bigi Pan and Coronie Swamp.

A wide, calm lake is the central focus, surrounded by a dense forest of green trees. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The water reflects the surrounding greenery and the sky. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in white, bold font in the lower-middle part of the image.

**Thank you for your attention**